



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2017

The BUZZ WORD



U.S. Navy Veterans Ray Meaney (standing) and Erwin Currier (seated) both served on the USS Bennington.



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

**325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on insuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions Please Contact:

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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Chaplain's Corner...

Howdy folks,

I want to make you aware of a magazine entitled 'Veterans Voices' (VVWP) that I have been getting on a quarterly basis for several years. Veterans Voices, the nation's oldest publication devoted exclusively to the works of military veterans, is published with contributions to Veterans Voices Writing Project, a volunteer, nonprofit organization, in cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

All of the articles in this publication are written by Veterans and Veteran employees at the VA hospitals around the United States. The writings provide an opportunity for Veterans to share feelings, war stories and thoughts for entertaining bedfast veterans and helping others to conquer mental health issues. When a Veteran is unable to do his or her own writing, the volunteers at the centers assist them.

The cost for the magazine is \$25 per year. The American Legion, Post 13 in Bennington recently made a sizable donation to VVWP and has requested that copies be sent to the Vermont Veterans' Home. Perhaps some of our residents or employees will want to write something for a future publication.

God Bless you all, don't forget to pray for our troops serving around the globe.

Chaplain Ken



Thank you! for your generous donations



The **USS Bennington PACT** presented a donation to the Home. Accepting the gift are Melissa Jackson and Al Faxon. With the other members, the USS PACT hosted an indoor picnic for the Veterans and members.



Members of the **Bennington International Cycle Club (BICC)** presented a check from the proceeds from Bike Night and the Bike Ride. Col. Krawczyk, Board President and Al Faxon, COO accepted the donation.



*From the Administrator...
Melissa Jackson*



It seems like I was just welcoming all of us to summer and before we know it fall will be arriving.

Now is a great time to go through your loved one's clothing and personal items. Please take home any items they are no longer using or wearing. Also ensure that everything is labeled with their name; if you have items that need to be labeled our Social Workers or Laundry staff can assist with this task. We continue to have a large amount of unlabeled clothes that end up in our laundry. If items are missing, you can contact Patti Parker and she will make arrangements for you to look through our unclaimed clothing. Please note, we do not do individual loads of laundry for each Veteran or Member so it is nearly impossible to return unlabeled clothes to its rightful owner. Even if you are doing laundry at home for your loved one, it is very important that their items be labeled with their names as this will ensure we are able to return their clothing if they end up in our laundry.

Al and I recently attended the National Association of State Veterans' Homes (NASVH) summer conference. This is a great opportunity for us to connect with fellow State Veterans' Homes and learn new best practices. We have found that many homes are coming to us asking for assistance in achieving deficiency free VA Surveys as well as information on our Namaste and Music and Memory programs. Although we are used to receiving deficiency free VA and CMS Surveys, this has not been the experience of our fellow State Veterans Home. I am very proud of the work our staff does each and every day.

Melissa



*The love of family is strong and deep,
Leaving us memories to treasure and keep*





Fife & Drum Corp Honoring Paul Tenney

Battle Day



Vietnam Veterans of America float stopped by to entertain the Troops



**On behalf of the Veterans/
Members, we sincerely thank the
following for their generous
donations.**

- James Robinson
- John Knapp, Jr.
- Arlene Bentley
- Red Hatters
- Controfeld Automotive, Inc.
- Linda Hale
- Mr. Lee Watters
- Martha Sermick
- Cyndi Candiloro
- Kathy Wheeler
- Missionary Alliance Church
- Howard Webster
- Barbara Hoar
- Michael Oltedal
- VFW Post 6471
- Marylou Young
- Dodge House
- Marguerite Guiden
- Pownal American Legion
- Phyllis Roberts
- DAV Auxiliary, Benn Chapter #4
- VFW District 4
- Bennington Elks
- Steve Maroni

In Memory of:

Tom Bentley
Dan and Brenda Edick

UPCOMING EVENTS



SEPTEMBER 5

Re-Creation
Patriot Hall—2 pm

SEPTEMBER 10

Charron Pond
10:30 am—1:00 pm



SEPTEMBER 24

ONE MAN BAND

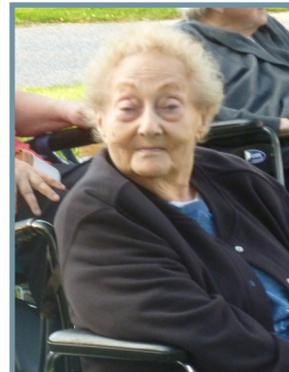
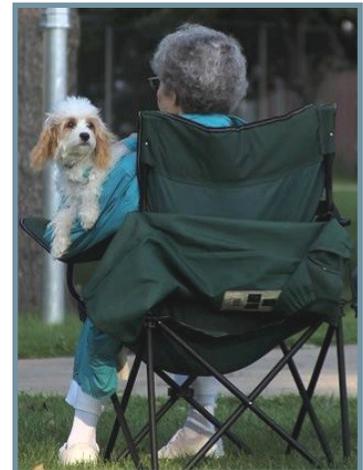
1:30 PM Patriot Hall

New marker commemorates Veterans Home history

Vermont Veterans' Home has been recognized by the State with a roadside historic marker to commemorate the long history of the site. State Rep. Mary Morrissey, Melissa Jackson, Veterans' Home Administrator, State Rep. Kiah Morris and Col. Al Faxon, Chief Operating Officer pose in front of the new historical marker at the Vermont Veterans' Home.



Catbird Trio



Summer Concert
Rockin'
out on
the Front
Porch



Our Staff who keep on giving—pictured with Col. Krawczyk & Melissa Jackson



Bill MacMillan—40 years Social Worker Retired w/Al & Melissa



Barbara Reilly—40 years Activities



Rae Ann Woods—29 years Activities



Lori Russell—10 years Nursing



Donna Richards—15 years Nursing & MDS



Patricia Babcock—10 years Infection Control



Lori Jerome—10 years Nurse Unit Manager Retired

Marion Ryberg—5 years Receptionist



THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ◆ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
- ◆ Email
- ◆ Mailing List

Please contact:

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VVH WISH LIST

CD Players

CDs of any type of music

Newspaper Subscriptions

Costume Jewelry

Envelopes, Stamps, Pens, Writing Paper

Men's Caps

Men's belts and suspenders

300 piece easy grip puzzles

500 piece easy grip puzzles

Universal TV Remotes

Earphones for TV and Music

DVD Players

Outdoor Benches

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

THANK YOU

*Honoring
Those Who Have
Served*

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture
Haircuts
Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies
Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods
Headphones
iTunes cards

PLEASE NOTE:

**** We will not be accepting books or magazines at this time. THANK YOU to all who have donated to our Veterans at VVH.**

USS *Bennington* (CV-20, later CVA-20 and CVS-20)

1944-1993

USS *Bennington*, a 27,100-ton Essex class aircraft carrier built at the New York Navy Yard, was commissioned in August 1944. After shakedown training, she passed through the Panama Canal in December 1944 and arrived in the western Pacific in early February 1945. Her first combat operation took place in that month when she participated in Task Force 58's raids on the Japanese home islands. *Bennington* also supported the invasion of Iwo Jima in February, hit the enemy home islands again in March and pounded the Ryukyus until Okinawa was secured in June. In April, her planes took part in the sinking of the huge Japanese battleship Yamato. The carrier suffered damage to her flight deck while steaming through a typhoon in early June. For the last two months of the Pacific War, *Bennington* joined in more attacks on Japan. She returned to the United States in October 1945 and, after limited operations in the west coast and Hawaiian areas, went to the U.S. east coast in April 1946 and decommissioned there later in the year.

In October 1950, *Bennington* was brought out of "mothballs" to receive a SCB-27A modernization. When recommissioned in November 1952, she was much more able to handle modern high-performance aircraft and had been redesignated CVA-20. For the next two years, she operated in the Atlantic and made a Mediterranean deployment in October 1953 - February 1954. She also suffered two major accidents: a boiler room explosion in April 1953 and a terrible hydraulic catapult explosion and fire on 26 May 1954. After the latter tragedy, which cost the lives of 103 officers and men, she entered the shipyard for further modernization which gave her an angled flight deck and enclosed bow.

Bennington transferred to the Pacific in October 1955, and thereafter frequently operated with the Seventh Fleet in Asiatic waters. In June 1959, she became an anti-submarine warfare support aircraft carrier with the new designation CVS-20. She was in the Far East during the 1960-61 Laotian Crisis guarding the fleet against the possibility of hostile submarine involvement, also in 1964 as the fighting in Vietnam intensified. After United States forces became actively involved in the conflict, *Bennington* had three tours of duty off Southeast Asia, in 1965, 1966-67 and 1968. She was decommissioned in January 1970 and entered the Reserve Fleet at Bremerton, Washington. Nearly two decades later, USS *Bennington* was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register. She was sold in September 1993 and subsequently towed across the Pacific Ocean to be scrapped in India.

Information provided by:

Joseph L. Pires
Vietnam Veteran (1966-1968)

Mr. Pires is the Historian for the USS *Bennington* and is also the donor of the beautifully framed photograph of the USS *Bennington*.





Travels with Steve



Dear All,

Only pictures can describe this month's travel. In December 2016, I went to ground zero in NYC. Words cannot explain my emotions and thoughts during my visit.

God Bless each of you, God Bless America and God watch over our troops. Steve



North Tower Location



South Tower Location



New Freedom Tower



Jean Roger, my friend's fiancé, who was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11 from Boston that day.